

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A monitoring system for a vehicle, comprising:
  - a diagnostic system configured to receive sensor information from at least one sensor mounted on the vehicle;
  - a vehicle operator interface configured to receive input from a vehicle operator and to display a plurality of prompts to the vehicle operator according to a predetermined algorithm;
  - a wireless communication device on board the vehicle, the wireless communication device coupled to the diagnostic system to communicate sensor information from the diagnostic system and coupled to the vehicle operator interface to communicate input from the vehicle operator interface;
  - a remote central data center in wireless communication with the wireless communication device and receiving sensor information and input from the vehicle operator interface; and
  - a communications network coupled to the remote central data center.

2. The monitoring systems of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a technical support group interface coupled to the communications network.

3. The monitoring system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a fleet management information center interface coupled to the communications network.

4. The monitoring system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - an equipment maintenance center interface coupled to the communications network.

5. The monitoring system of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a dealer service center interface coupled to the communications network.

6. An off-highway work vehicle comprising:  
a diagnostic system configured to receive sensor information from at least one  
vehicle sensor mounted on the off-highway work vehicle;  
an operator interface configured to receive input from a vehicle operator and to  
display a plurality of prompts to the vehicle operator according to a predetermined algorithm; and  
an onboard fleet management system coupled to the diagnostic system to receive  
sensor information from the diagnostic system and coupled to the operator interface to receive  
input from the operator interface; and  
a wireless communication device coupled to the onboard fleet management  
system to communicate sensor information and operator input from the operator interface to a  
data receiver.

7. The off-highway work vehicle of claim 6 wherein the onboard fleet  
management system further comprises:  
a microprocessor configured to receive sensor information from the diagnostic  
system and operator input from the operator interface.

8. The off-highway work vehicle of claim 6 wherein the wireless  
communication device comprises a modem and transmitter coupled to the onboard fleet  
management system.

9. The off-highway work vehicle of claim 8 wherein the transmitter is  
configured to transmit a cellular telephone signal.

10. The off-highway work vehicle of claim 8 wherein the transmitter is  
configured to transmit a satellite communications signal.

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1 11. The off-highway work vehicle of claim 6 wherein the operator prompts are  
2 a succession of questions for the operator and wherein the operator interface is configured to  
3 accept responses to the operator prompts.

1 12. The off-highway work vehicle of claim 11 wherein the predetermined  
2 algorithm is a decision tree and wherein the responses are stored as a data character string.

1 13. The off-highway work vehicle of claim 6 wherein the data receiver is a  
2 remote central data center.

1 14. A method for monitoring a work vehicle comprising:  
2 retrieving inputs from an operator on the vehicle;  
3 retrieving sensor information from at least one sensor connected to the vehicle;  
4 running a diagnostics algorithm configured to provide diagnostics information  
5 based on at least some of the inputs from the operator and the sensor information; and  
6 communicating the diagnostics information to a data receiver via a wireless  
7 communication data link.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the data receiver is a remote data center.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the retrieving inputs from an operator  
2 uses a decision tree algorithm to determine decision tree data.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the diagnostics information is the  
2 decision tree data.

1 18. A fleet management system for a work vehicle comprising:  
2 a microprocessor on the work vehicle;  
3 an operator interface on-board the work vehicle coupled to the microprocessor and  
4 configured to receive inputs from a vehicle operator;

5 a diagnostics algorithm configured to provide diagnostics information based on  
 6 the inputs received from the operator; and  
 7 a wireless data link configured to communicate the diagnostics information to a  
 8 remote data receiver.

1 19. The fleet management system of claim 18 further comprising:  
 2 at least one vehicle sensor coupled to the vehicle and configured to supply sensor  
 3 information to the diagnostics algorithm.

1 20. The fleet management system of claim 18 wherein the wireless  
 2 communication device further comprises:  
 3 a modem coupled to the microprocessor and a transmitter coupled to the modem.

1 21. The fleet management system of claim 18 wherein the operator interface is  
 2 configured to display a series of operator questions.

1 22. The fleet management system of claim 21 wherein the operator interface is  
 2 configured to accept responses to the operator questions.

1 23. The fleet management system of claim 22 wherein the plurality of operator  
 2 questions are derived from a decision tree.

1 24. The fleet management system of claim 23 wherein the responses are stored  
 2 as a data character string.